Patent Claims

1. Method for the determination of adrenomedullin immunoreactivity in biological fluids for diagnostic purposes, characterized in that the midregional partial peptide (mid-proAM; SEQ ID NO:3) of proadrenomedullin which comprises the amino acids (45-92) of the complete preproadrenomedullin (pre-proAM; SEQ ID NO:1) is measured.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mid-proAM in the biological fluids is measured by means of an immunoassay which operates with at least one labelled antibody which specifically recognizes a sequence of mid-proAM.

3. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the immunoassay is an assay with a solid phase-bound competitor for the analyte and a labelled antibody (SPALT assay) or a sandwich assay (two-sided immunoassay), in which at least two antibodies which specifically bind to different partial sequences of mid-proAM (SEQ ID NO:3) are used.

4. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that circulating mid-proAM (SEQ ID NO:3) is determined and the biological fluid is a plasma.

5. Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that both antibodies bind to a region of mid-proAM

which extends from the amino acid 60 to the amino acid 94 of the pre-proAM.

6. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the antibody/antibodies is/are monoclonal and/or polyclonal.

7. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that both antibodies are affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies.

8. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that one of the antibodies is obtained by immunization of an animal with an antigen which contains a synthetic peptide sequence which comprises the amino acids 69-86 of pre-proAM (SEQ ID NO:4), and the other of the antibodies is obtained by immunization with an antigen which contains a synthetic peptide sequence which comprises the amino acids 83-94 of pre-proAM (SEQ ID NO:5).

9. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that one of the antibodies is labelled and the other antibody is bound to a solid phase or can be bound selectively to a solid phase.

10. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that both the first and the second antibody are present dispersed in the liquid reaction mixture and that a first labelling component which is part of a labelling system

S100B, S100A proteins, LASP-1, soluble cytokeratin fragments, in particular CYFRA 21, TPS and/or soluble cytokeratin-1 fragments (sCY1F), the peptides inflammin and CHP, other peptide prohormones, glycine-N-acyltransferase (GNAT), the carbamoylphosphate synthetase 1 (CPS 1) and the C-reactive protein (CRP) or fragments thereof.

15. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that it is used in the area of cardiac diagnosis.

16. Method according to Claim 15, characterized in that it is carried out in the course of a multiparameter determination in which further parameters relevant for cardiac diagnosis are determined at the same time.

17. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that it is used in the area of cancer diagnosis.

18. Method according to Claim 17, characterized in that it is carried out in the course of a multiparameter determination in which further parameters relevant for cancer diagnosis are determined at the same time.